

## Message

**From:** Newman, Erin [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=571C431B5A924F4796D8C453DCB226E6-EWNEWMAN]  
**Sent:** 2/8/2018 3:46:53 PM  
**To:** Newman, Christopher [newman.christopherm@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Wolverine clips, Feb. 8, 2018

Yesterday the news article was about a family who's 3 year old died from birth defects likely related to the water.

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**From:** Newman, Christopher  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 08, 2018 9:45 AM  
**To:** Newman, Erin <newman.erin@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Wolverine clips, Feb. 8, 2018

What a mess!!

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**From:** Newman, Erin  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 08, 2018 9:35 AM  
**To:** Newman, Christopher <newman.christopherm@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Wolverine clips, Feb. 8, 2018

I get one of these news updates daily. My brain hurts.

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**From:** Lippert, Allison  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 08, 2018 9:27 AM  
**To:** Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>; Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Mattas-Curry, Lahne <Mattas-Curry.Lahne@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Arrazola, Ignacio <arrazola.ignacio@epa.gov>; Asque, Gillian <asque.gillian@epa.gov>; Aultz, Erica <aultz.eric@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Kimble, Jeffrey <kimble.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Boone, Denise <boone.denise@epa.gov>; Chabria, Monesh <chabria.monesh@epa.gov>; Cisneros, Jose <Cisneros.Jose@epa.gov>; Clark, Jacqueline <clark.jacqueline@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Dodds, Jennifer <dodds.jennifer@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Frey, Rebecca <frey.rebecca@epa.gov>; Gangwisch, Bryan <gangwisch.bryan@epa.gov>; Guerriero, Margaret <guerriero.margaret@epa.gov>; Harris, Kimberly <harris.kimberly@epa.gov>; Harris, Michael <harris.michael@epa.gov>; Holst, Linda <holst.linda@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Klassman, Debra <klassman.debra@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Mangino, Mario <mangino.mario@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Moore, Tammy <moore.tammy@epa.gov>; Morris, Julie <morris.julie@epa.gov>; Muniz, Nuria <Muniz.Nuria@epa.gov>; Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov>; Newman, Erin <newman.erin@epa.gov>; Peaceman, Karen <Peaceman.Karen@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Prendiville, Timothy <prendiville.timothy@epa.gov>; Schupp, George <schupp.george@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Tanaka, Joan <Tanaka.Joan@epa.gov>; Victorine, Gary <victorine.gary@epa.gov>; Williams, Thomas <williams.tom@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jennifer <wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov>; Zintek, Lawrence <zintek.lawrence@epa.gov>; Shoven, Heather <shoven.heather@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Wolverine clips, Feb. 8, 2018

**Wolverine PFAS press clips**  
**US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs**  
**February 8, 2018**

<b>MLive</b>	<b>High lead level found in drinking water near Wolverine dump</b>
<b>WOOD TV</b>	<b>Test finds lead in water near Wolverine dump</b>
<b>WZZM FOR LEAD</b>	<b>'MORE BAD NEWS,' SAYS BELMONT WOMAN WHOSE WATER TESTS POSITIVE</b>
<b>Fox 17</b>	<b>Lead levels above four times legal limit found at Belmont home</b>

[http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2018/02/house\\_street\\_wolverine\\_lead.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2018/02/house_street_wolverine_lead.html)

## **High lead level found in drinking water near Wolverine dump**

Updated Feb 7, 5:32 PM; Posted Feb 7, 4:50 PM

By Garret Ellison

BELMONT, MI -- Kent County homeowners have found elevated levels of lead in their drinking water wells, prompting a call for new testing around a multi-township area where Wolverine World Wide tannery chemicals have polluted the groundwater.

Jennifer and Lucas Carney's well on the 7500 block of Chandler Drive NE tested at 73 parts-per-billion (ppb) for lead, a potent neurotoxin that can cause a variety of health problems in adults and children.

The well also tested for copper at 172-ppb.

Wolverine denies responsibility for the heavy metals contamination despite the home's proximity to its House Street dump, the source of a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, plume in Belmont. "The only thing we believe could be the source is House Street," said Jennifer Carney, who said the home has no lead fixtures or plumbing.

The test was done at the wellhead, for which they reviewed county construction records to ensure it wasn't built with lead materials.

"We followed the instructions step-by-step," she said.

The Carney's home is one of two Varnum Law firm client properties with lead in the well above the Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water limit of 15-ppb. The firm represents more than 250 clients affected by the PFAS contamination and asked regulators to require that Wolverine resample homes for lead.

Sandy Wynn-Stelt's home across from the House Street dump was the other property tested for lead. Her result was 22.5-ppb.

The letter was sent to the Kent County Health Department, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which found lead in samples taken at House Street and the former tannery grounds in Rockford.

Varnum said soil samples collected during waste excavation off Wolverine's property last fall found "extremely high" levels of mercury, arsenic and chromium. Subsequent testing also found lead and zinc.

Varnum said they sampled around the barrel and leather hide dumps neighbors un-affectionately dubbed "Leather Hill" and "Barrel Valley" last year because "no one besides us was interested in understanding the composition of the waste."

"We hand-delivered these results to (DEQ investigation supervisor) David O'Donnell," Varnum wrote.

"To our knowledge, no additional testing was undertaken by DEQ or any other agency in response to these findings."

Wolverine is pushing back on the testing request.

"Based on the information currently available, Wolverine does not believe the House Street site is the source of these or any other lead detections in the House Street area," the company said.

Wolverine says monitoring well samples from its 76-acre House Street dump haven't tested positive for lead and "all of the soil samples from the House Street site are well below cleanup criteria for lead."

The DEQ tested 36 homes near the dump for lead and of the seven with detections, "all were well below the state action level," Wolverine said. "The highest was 1.8-ppb."

The DEQ echoed that finding in a Wednesday statement, while also pointing to the EPA's January order requiring more investigative work at the House Street dump.

"Michigan DEQ proactively tested 35 homes for 10 metals and volatile organic compounds last summer (2017) and found that none of the results exceeded residential clean up criteria," the department said.

"Since this sampling, the EPA has issued its removal action order (106 CERCLA) which addresses all non-PFAS hazardous substances including metals and provides a timeline for addressing implementation of CERCLA regulated contaminants at the House Street facility. Michigan DEQ continues to work closely with the EPA on the application of this order."

Carney decided to buy the county's \$26 lead test kit after reading the EPA order, which referenced sediment contaminated with lead at 130,000-ppb in the Rogue River near the tannery and a composite sampling collected by Wolverine's contractor that found lead on Imperial Pine Drive near the House Street dump at 3-ppb.

Carney said fluctuations in the PFAS levels in her well across two rounds of testing indicate that, at least for PFAS, contamination levels change over time. In September, her well tested for PFAS at 148 parts-per-trillion (ppt). In November, that climbed to 320-ppt. Could lead levels also fluctuate, she wonders?

"It's like a whole other ballgame now," she said.

Carney wonders if lead, a potent neurotoxin well known as a contaminant in Michigan following the Flint water crisis, could have caused her health troubles. She's been experiencing neurological problems like limb numbness, periodic blurry vision, spotty peripheral vision and headaches. She takes nerve medication.

Her daughter, age 7, has complained about numbness in her feet. Her son, 14, has had to leave school with severe headaches. Their blood is being tested this week.

"I wonder how many other symptoms (they) have but don't realize aren't normal things you're not supposed to be feeling," Carney said.

"I'm afraid for how many more homes might have this," she said. "Thankfully, it doesn't take 4-6 weeks like PFAS to get test results. It only took 2 weeks."

<http://woodtv.com/2018/02/07/test-finds-lead-in-water-near-wolverine-dump/>

## Test finds lead in water near Wolverine dump

Ken Kolker, Target 8 investigator Published: February 7, 2018, 4:43 pm Updated: February 7, 2018, 6:18 pm

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (WOOD) — It's not just PFAS, a likely carcinogen, leading to fears around Wolverine Worldwide's former House Street dump in Belmont. Some residents also worry about lead in their wells.

Two residents near the dump told Target 8 that their drinking wells tested positive for lead, one of them nearly five times the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's limit of 15 parts per billion for lead.

They say it should lead to widespread testing.

Lead can be especially devastating to children, with high levels potentially leading to brain damage and damage to the central nervous system.

Jenny Carney, who has two kids and lives on Chandler Street NE, across US-131 from the old dump, said her water tested at 73 ppb.

"It was extremely high, almost five times what the EPA level should be," she said.

Sandy Wynn-Stelt, who lives across the street from the dump, said her water tested at 22 parts per billion for lead. Her well already has, by far, the highest level of PFAS in the immediate area around the dump.

"At least it's something that the doctors know about," Jenny Carney said of the lead findings. "On the other hand, it's like how much more? How much more are we going to have to deal with?"

Carney's well had already been found to have high levels of PFAS in a test conducted by Wolverine. She hasn't let anyone drink her home's tainted well water since September, even with a whole-house filter.

She paid for her own simple \$26 water test through the county after learning lead was discovered in soil samples at the House Street dump, where Wolverine dumped tannery sludge until 1970. The results came back in two weeks.

Attorneys at the Varnum law firm, who have filed multiple suits against Wolverine and represent both Wynn-Stelt and Carney, said they're aware of only two lead results over the limit. They said they've notified state and federal officials about the findings. They believe it should lead to widespread testing for heavy metals, including lead.

So does Carney.

"There should be more widespread as far as testings," she said.

Just down the street, a recent test showed traces of lead in another PFAS-tainted well. The lead level was 3 parts per billion, under the EPA's 15 ppb level.

"It very much concerns me," homeowner Lisa Ingraham said of the lead results. "I will not drink the water, even after the filters."

As for the Carneys, she and her son had their blood tested for PFAS on Wednesday. On Thursday, both of her kids will be tested for lead.

"So far, it's not affected them," she said. "They're smart and they're beautiful."

Officials with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA said they were not aware of the recent testing.

The DEQ says it tested 35 wells in that area last summer for heavy metals, including lead, and found nothing that violated standards. It says it continues to work closely with the EPA.

Wolverine Worldwide provided Target 8 with a statement that said it was area of the testing and that it "does not believe the House Street site is the source of these or any other lead detections in the House Street area."

The Rockford-based shoemaker said its monitoring wells near the dump have not been found to have any lead and that "all of the soil samples from the House Street site are well below cleanup criteria for lead." It added that tests last summer found lead in only seven of 36 homes tested, and none of those were above limits.

The EPA provided Target 8 with this statement Wednesday:

*"The EPA was informed by a private law firm of these results. EPA confirmed with the private law firm that the residents in question had already been provided filtered and/or bottled drinking water to ensure that clean, safe drinking water was available to them. EPA continues to work with MDEQ and health agencies on a coordinated approach to the sites in and around Rockford that are contaminated with PFAS and hazardous constituents."*

<http://www.wzzm13.com/mobile/article/news/local/water-worries/more-bad-news-says-belmont-woman-whose-water-tests-positive-for-lead/69-515679387>

#### **'MORE BAD NEWS,' SAYS BELMONT WOMAN WHOSE WATER TESTS POSITIVE FOR LEAD**

Author: Noah Fromson

Published: 11:30 PM EST February 7, 2018

The bad news keeps piling up, Jennifer Carney says.

Months after learning her well water contains a suspected carcinogen used to waterproof shoes, the Belmont woman says her water is now testing positive for lead, the same toxic metal that put Flint's municipal water in the spotlight.

"It sucks," said Carney, a married mother of two. "There's really no other way to say it. And just to open another letter with another result and find out more bad news. It's like, 'Really, more?'"

Water at her home on Chandler Drive NE tested well above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking limit for PFAS, a family of chemicals used by Wolverine Worldwide at its Rockford tannery. Tannery waste was trucked to a company dump on House Street NE, which closed nearly 50 years ago.

Carney's blood has more PFAS than what is found in the general population, according to an American Red Cross study, but health risks from long-term exposure aren't fully known.

The same cannot be said for lead -- and that has her worried.

"It's so strange to be contaminated with two things, one that nobody knows about, and now finding out that you're contaminated with something that we've all heard of," Carney said. "We've all heard of the Flint crisis, and now we have the exact same thing happening in our own home."

Carney paid to have her well tested for lead. The results were mailed to her by the Kent County Health Department. The water tested at 73 parts per billion (ppb), almost five times the EPA limit of 15 ppb.

According to the EPA, lead exposure can affect almost every human organ, with the main target being the nervous system.

While there's a lot of unknowns about the health risks of PFAS exposure, risks from lead exposure are known and documented, said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

"I can tell you from a blood-lead level in your blood, a water-lead level, what the exposures and the risks are," Wells said in a November interview.

Because of the lead results from her water, Carney is now having her blood tested. She had her blood drawn on Tuesday and is awaiting the results. She also plans to have her children's blood tested for PFAS and lead.

"This really does start to explain some of the neurological issues I've been trying to figure out for the last couple years," she said. "The only way the [family] is managing this is by the four of us sticking together."

Carney's well is one of two that showed unsafe levels of lead. They are among 640 wells tested for PFAS in connection with Wolverine's House Street dump in Kent County's Plainfield Township.

The other well is at the home of Sandy Wynn-Stelt, which sits directly across the street from the dump. The lead content of her water came in at 22.5 ppb.

Her well, until last week, had the highest recorded PFAS levels in northern Kent County at 37,800 parts per trillion (ppt). That's about 540 times the EPA's limit for PFAS of 70 ppt.

In a statement released Wednesday, Wolverine Worldwide said it does not believe the House Street site is the source of recently-detected lead. "Wolverine has eight monitoring wells located on the House Street site that have been tested for lead. Lead has not been detected in any of the samples," Wolverine said in the statement.

Grand Rapids law firm Varnum LLC paid to have Wynn-Stelt's water tested for lead. The firm is representing more than 250 residents in the Rockford and Belmont areas related to tannery waste contamination.

In a Feb. 2 letter to the state Department of Environmental Quality and others, Varnum asked that wells in the PFAS contamination zones be tested for metals.

"In light of the finding that a second home has lead in its drinking water above federal criteria, we once again call on state and federal agencies to assist residents and protect public health," Varnum attorney Aaron M. Phelps wrote.

The lead contamination has not been linked to Wolverine Worldwide. However, an EPA order from January makes note of lead contamination in soil at the House Street dump and at Wolverine's former tannery in Rockford.

The order cites 2012 data from the DEQ that found soil samples with lead detections that exceed safe levels for ground and surface water. It also references lead in an area just west of the House Street dump at 3,000 parts per billion.

Groundwater at the tannery property is vulnerable to contamination "due to highly-permeable sand and gravel soils," according to the EPA.

The DEQ says 35 homes were tested last summer for 10 metals and volatile organic compounds none of the results "exceeded residential clean up criteria."

A news release from the state DEQ says the agency "continues to work closely with the EPA" on its removal action order.

Read the full statement here:

*Michigan DEQ proactively tested 35 homes for 10 metals and volatile organic compounds last summer (2017). It found that none of the results exceeded residential clean up criteria. Since this sampling, the EPA has issued its removal action order (106 CERCLA) which addresses all substances including metals and provides a timeline for addressing implementation of CERCLA regulated contaminants at the House Street facility. Michigan DEQ continues to work closely with the EPA on the application of this order.*

<http://fox17online.com/2018/02/07/lead-levels-above-four-times-legal-limit-found-near-house-street/>

## **Lead levels above four times legal limit found at Belmont home**

POSTED 3:53 PM, FEBRUARY 7, 2018, BY [AHTRA ELNASHAR](#), UPDATED AT 10:42PM, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

BELMONT, Mich.-- A private well at a home on Chandler Drive NE in Belmont shows lead levels at 73 parts per billion, well above the EPA's limit of 15 parts per billion.

The home is near House Street, an old Wolverine Worldwide dumping site where other chemicals have been found contaminating drinking wells in the area.

Homeowner Luke Carney says he and his wife Jennifer paid for their well water to be tested after researching the history of contaminants in nearby water. The father of two says he's at a loss for what to do next.

"Don't know. I haven't processed it yet," Carney tells FOX 17. "So, once you process it, then you will be able to understand what to do, what actions to take. Do I test after the filter? It's kind of all up in the air at the moment."

This isn't the first time contaminants have been found in the Carney's well water. Last fall, Carney says their water tested at 147.9 and 320 parts per trillion. The state of Michigan set a limit at 70 parts per trillion. He says Wolverine installed a whole-home filter to address that issue and now PFAS levels at his home are non-detectable.

Wolverine denied any connection to lead detection near the House Street dump site. They tell FOX 17 in part:

*"Wolverine Worldwide is aware of the information that was provided this week to MDEQ about the discovery of lead in two residential groundwater wells. Based on the information currently available, Wolverine does not believe the House Street site is the source of these or any other lead detections in the House Street area. Wolverine has 8 monitoring wells located on the House Street site that have been tested for lead. Lead has not been detected in any of the samples."*

Wolverine adds that out of 38 homes they tested, the highest levels of lead they detected in the vicinity of House Street was 1.8 parts per billion.

Steve Kelso with the Kent County Health Department says these results should be taken very seriously.

"The lead is poison," Kelso tells FOX 17. "Lead is a dangerous substance and we would not advise anyone to drink water if the lead content is that high."

Kelso says the Health Department has offered the family at this residence the assistance of a sanitarian, but the Carneys say that help was never offered.

"Don't drink that water. Stay away from that water. Go on bottled water. Use filtered water. We can check your water post-filtration to see if the filter you've installed or have had installed is doing the job and keeping the lead out of it," Kelso says.

Kelso says those most vulnerable to lead are children. It can caused children to have delays in physical and mental development. In adults, it can cause kidney problems and high blood pressure.

"It's depressing. It's crazy. It's frustrating. It's argumentative. I mean, what emotions, how do you explain that?" Carney tells FOX 17. "I mean how, when 100 percent of what you would think is your life savings gets turned upside down immediately, how would you handle that?"

Carney was remodeling his home but he says then they got their water results he stopped. He says he doesn't know of anyone who would buy his home.

"You wanna buy my house today? You can. I'll sell it to you. I haven't met one person that would answer that question with a yes." Carney says.

For a man who grew up outside of Flint, these results are all too familiar.

"It's ironic," Carney says. "You know I've got friends over there, family that lives within the city limits and I've been following that rather close and now it's like, huh. Kinda close to home."

Cody Angell, the leader of the citizen group "Demand Action from Plainfield Township" tells FOX 17 in part:

*"The levels are high enough to cause irreversible damage to the body's nervous system. While Wolverine has taken initiative for testing affected houses it has focused on just PFOS and PFOA. We are advising that*



*wolverine takes initiative to test for a range of contaminants found at house street dump and not just for PFOS & PFOA in private wells. We are advising residents to reach out to the Kent County Health Department and to Wolverine to request additional testing on the affected wells."*

Meanwhile, Wolverine Worldwide announced they will start testing 100 private wells for PFOA and PFOS near 11 Mile Road between Wolven Avenue and Summit Avenue.